

Claims in the Amendment

[Received by the International Bureau on April 19, 2001
(19. 04. 01): claims 1 to 4 and 7 to 11 in the first
application were amended; other claims were unchanged. (2
pages)]

1. (after amendment) A metalloprotease having an
aggrecanase activity, which comprises an amino acid
sequence of from the 213th position to the 583rd position
of an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1 or
which consists of an amino acid sequence of from the 213th
position to the 583rd position of the amino acid sequence
represented by SEQ ID NO:1 wherein from 1 to 10 amino acid
residues are substituted, deleted and/or inserted.

2. (after amendment) A metalloprotease having an
aggrecanase activity, which comprises an amino acid
sequence of from the 1st position to the 583rd position of
an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1 or which
consists of an amino acid sequence of from the 1st position
to the 583rd position of the amino acid sequence
represented by SEQ ID NO:1 wherein from 1 to 10 amino acid
residues are substituted, deleted and/or inserted.

3. (after amendment) A metalloprotease having an
aggrecanase activity, which consists of an amino acid
sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, an amino acid sequence
of from the 1st position to the 687th position of an amino
acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, an amino acid

9. (after amendment) A method for screening a substance capable of inhibiting an aggrecanase activity of a metalloprotease, which comprises allowing the metalloprotease having an aggrecanase activity described in any one of claims 1 to 3 to contact with a compound to be tested.

10. (after amendment) A pharmaceutical composition for inhibiting degradation of proteoglycans, which comprises a substance capable of inhibiting the metalloprotease having an aggrecanase activity described in any one of claims 1 to 3, as an active ingredient.

11. (after amendment) A gene represented by SEQ ID NO:24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 or 31, or a gene represented by SEQ ID NO:24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 or 31 wherein from 1 to 10 amino acid residues are substituted, deleted and/or inserted, which has a joint disease aggrecanase promoter activity.

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W. J. A.